

COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

OCTOBER 16, 2008

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Community Calendar

Fall Festival

The YWCA at Glade Street will host a free Fall Festival for members and the public on Monday, Oct. 20. The event, part of the center's celebration of October as Member Appreciation Month, will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Pine Room at the center at 1201 Glade Street.

Black Chamber meeting

The Winston Salem Black Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Hewitt Business Center, 1001 South Marshall Street. Gerry McCants will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Getting the Most for Your Advertising Dollars." Contact Randon Pender at 336-575-2006 for more information, or visit www.wsbcc.org.

Carter G. Woodson benefit concert

Carter G. Woodson Charter School, 437 Goldfloss St., will host a benefit concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, featuring conscious rappers, The Last Poets.

Performers will also include Zonya Love Johnson, who performed in the Broadway musical, "The Color Purple;" inspirational jazz groups Total Silence and Peace of Mind; the Carter G. Woodson orchestra; and a jazz band and dance troupe. This is an event for families and friends from generation to generation. Tickets may be purchased at the school, Special Occasions book store and Herb's Bargain Barn. Tickets may also be purchased the night of the event at the door. For more information, call the school at 336-336-723-6838.

Volunteer training to assist older adults

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold training for new volunteers on Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Salem Towne Retirement Community. Lunch will be provided.

Volunteers are needed to assist with services for older adults. Opportunities include providing transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, performing minor home repairs and visiting homebound clients. Mileage reimbursement is provided. For more information and to register for training, please call The Shepherd's Center at 336-748-0217.

Substance abuse help

If you or a family member is struggling with substance abuse, HELP is a phone call away. The Twin City Area Narcotics Anonymous Helpline can be reached at 800-365-1035 or online at www.tcana.org. For meeting schedules and additional information for this 12-step Recovery Program, please call the number of visit the Web site.



Naasira Muhammad with her daughters, Melantha and Treszha.

Photos by Todd Luck

HISTORY ON THE MOVE

Black history exhibit visits Winston-Salem

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Locals got a sample of a massive exhibit that will chronicle centuries of African-American history when it opens early next year in Philadelphia.

In anticipation of the grand opening, a mini version of the "America I Am" exhibit has been making its way around the nation inside the trailer of an 18-wheeler. The tour stopped in Winston-Salem last week, drawing a crowd of curious local people as it sat in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart on Hanes Mill Road. Wal-Mart is sponsoring the exhibit, which is the brainchild of author and TV and radio commentator Tavis Smiley. The exhibit attempts to answer the question asked by W.E.B. Du Bois more than 100 years ago, "Would America have been America without her Negro People?"

To answer that question, the exhibit uses video, audio and historical artifacts that highlight all that blacks have contributed to this nation. A video featuring Smiley welcomes visitors to the exhibit, which starts with Africa, then explores the horrific Middle Passage blacks took to the



The roving exhibit is housed inside a trailer.

Americas, and then slavery, which is illustrated by the shackles that slaves wore and a barnyard trough that slaves were forced to eat from on some plantations.

The exhibit shows visitors the progression of blacks. It winds through the Emancipation Proclamation, Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement, using video highlights and things such as a boxing glove belonging to legend Muhammad Ali and recordings by singers Aretha Franklin and Chubby Checker. The final panel that visitors see is labeled "Triumph" and

features African-Americans of today who have achieved success, including current presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama. Visitors can leave their own imprint by recording a message on what African American history means to them.

Winston-Salem State University student Lakeitha Hayes was among those who showed visitors around the exhibit, which she says even taught her a thing or two.

"I knew a lot about African-American culture ... but different things in here just showed me a whole other perspective of what was done in the African-American community and what was done in our culture," said Hayes.

Visitor Andre Little said "America I Am" was reminder of the struggles African-Americans have faced and how much progress has been



Lakeitha Hayes

made.

"This is real good. This is eye-opening; it wakes you up to the way things were back then," said Little. "Change is coming, change is happening. People are changing towards each other."

Naasira Muhammad said the exhibit was particularly meaningful to her since she grew up in Charlotte during the civil rights era. She recalled the humiliation blacks faced from downtown business owners and white business patrons back then. Muhammad brought her

daughters, Melantha and Treszha, to the exhibit to give them a taste of history.

"Something like this makes our children aware that we have a rich and powerful heritage," said Muhammad, an instructional coach at Carter G. Woodson School, which treated more than 100 of its students to the tour.

Daniel Fuller and his wife, Caryn, are driving the exhibit all across the country. He says the response has been great, with one stop getting as many as 1,300 visitors.

"I just feel personally this story is not a story that's taught in our public school systems, never really talked about," said Fuller.

The full exhibit will encompass 12 galleries and more than 10,000 square-feet when it opens at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Jan. 15. It will then tour the country for four years.

Muhammad says she's excited about the full exhibit and plans to go see it when it comes to Atlanta.

"We have been building this country. I am proud about my legacy," said Muhammad. "We have done so much for this country and get so little credit."

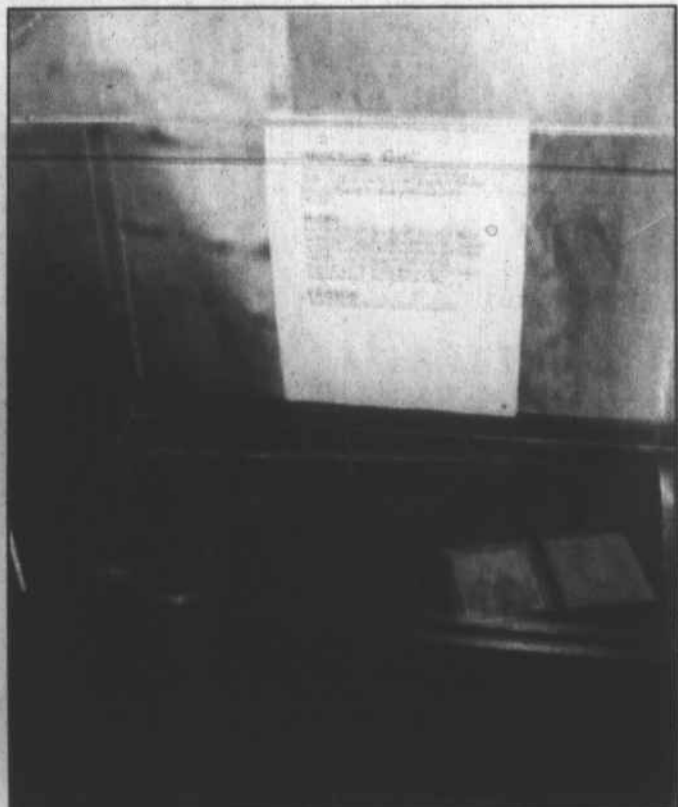
For more information about America I Am, visit www.americiam.org.



A Muhammad Ali boxing glove is among the artifacts.



Daniel Fuller



Some of items used to depict slavery.



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